

CLAIMS

1. A storage container comprising:

a soft bag member that stores a predetermined matter therein;

5 a fold deformed into a constant shape when a pressure is applied to the bag member or the fold deformed when the stored matter is reduced in volume; and

a grasp guiding unit that is provided on an outer peripheral surface of the bag member, and that guides a
10 user to a grasp position, wherein

the bag member is reduced in volume while being deformed into a constant shape along the fold by applying an external pressure to the bag member or by reducing an internal pressure of the bag member.

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2. The storage container according to claim 1, wherein the bag member is a polyhedral member having three or more surfaces, and

the fold is formed so that one of the three surfaces
20 on which the fold is formed is bent toward an inside of the bag member.

3. The storage container according to claim 1, wherein a mark for notifying the user of a position of

25 touching a finger when the user grasps the bag member is employed as the grasp guiding unit.

4. The storage container according to claim 3, wherein

a recess or a through hole formed in a sheet member is
30 employed as the mark, the sheet member provided on an outer peripheral surface of the bag member or formed integrally with the bag member and having higher rigidity than the bag member.

5. The storage container according to claim 3, wherein
a friction surface having a higher frictional
coefficient with respect to the finger of the user than a
5 frictional coefficient of a surface of the bag member is
formed as the mark.
6. The storage container according to claim 1, further
comprising a deformation assisting unit that assists
10 deformation of the bag member so that the bag member
reduced in volume is bent along the fold.
7. The storage container according to claim 6, wherein
a rigidity enhancing member that makes a part of the
15 bag member higher in rigidity than remaining parts of the
bag member is employed as the deformation assisting unit.
8. The storage container according to claim 7, wherein
the bag member includes two flat portions facing each
20 other, and
a flat plate member fixed to at least a part of the
flat portions is employed as the rigidity enhancing member.
9. The storage container according to claim 7, wherein
25 the rigidity enhancing member is provided on the outer
peripheral surface, and
the grasp guiding unit is provided on the rigidity
enhancing member.
- 30 10. An image forming apparatus, wherein
the storage container according to claim 1 is employed
as a replaceable storage container that stores a matter to
be consumed at an image forming step of forming an image on

a recording material.

11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10,
wherein

5 the matter to be consumed is toners for forming the
image formed on the recording material.